

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add an Abstract of the disclosure as follows:

--Abstract of the Disclosure

The stability of a triplex in solution is enhanced by adding to the solution, either before or after formation of the triplex, an effective amount of either of the following: (a) a water structure-making substance, at an appropriately high concentration, other than an alkali or alkaline earth metal cation, a tetramethylammonium cation, or a polyamine; or (b) a combination of said water structure-making substance and an alkali or alkaline earth cation or a tetramethylammonium cation or a polyamine.--